

21 SEP 1978

**DD/A Registry**

File Personnel-16

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

FROM: Robert W. Gambino  
Director of Security

SUBJECT: Request for National Institute of  
Occupational Safety and Health to  
Perform a Health Hazard Evaluation

1. Action Requested: It is requested that you sign the attached letter to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to conduct a health hazard evaluation.

STATINTL  
2. Background: There is an existing problem in the [redacted] which is causing real discomfort to 10 employees. These employees work in an internal office and are suffering from what appear to be insect bites; however, no insect can be located. The employees complain of feeling a stinging sensation, followed by a red lesion accompanied by severe itching, and infection follows scratching.

The office area in which the employees work has been sprayed by exterminators on a number of occasions, yet the skin lesions continue to appear.

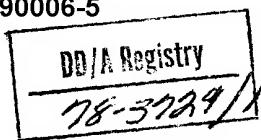
The problem has been studied by our Industrial Hygienist, a Safety Officer, a biologist, an entomologist, a medical technician, a dermatologist, and a doctor from the Office of Medical Services. To date, no cause has been found. The Health Hazard Evaluation Branch of the NIOSH has specialists in this field who have agreed to perform sophisticated testing for us.

3. Recommendation: It is recommended that you sign the attached letter.

STATINTL

[Redacted]  
Robert W. Gambino

Att



23 SEP 1978

Mr. Jerry Flesch  
Health Hazard Evaluation Branch  
National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health  
4676 Columbia Parkway  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

Dear Mr. Flesch:

Your assistance is requested with respect to a problem which exists at one of our installations. Ten employees who work in an internal office space at our [redacted] have been suffering from what appear to be insect bites. However, no insects have been located. The employees complain of feeling a stinging sensation, followed by a red lesion which is accompanied by severe itching, and infection follows scratching. The area has been sprayed by exterminators on numerous occasions, yet the skin lesions continue to appear. The affected employees all work with files in one bank of filing cabinets, and they are the only personnel [redacted] who have experienced the problem. The symptoms disappear when the employee is away from the files for two or three days.

The situation has been studied by a safety officer, a biologist, an entomologist, an industrial hygienist, a medical technician, and two doctors. To date, the cause has not been determined. In addition, several of the employees have been examined by a dermatologist who has stated that the lesions are "nonspecific."

Inasmuch as we have been unsuccessful in resolving this problem, the assistance of your office is requested in an effort to identify the cause of this apparent health problem and undertake the appropriate corrective action.

OS 8 2494

Any questions regarding this request may be addressed

STATINTL

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

*J.F. John F. Blake*

John F. Blake  
CIA Safety  
and  
Health Official

Distribution:

Orig - Adse  
② - DD/A  
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STATINTL

ORIGINATOR:

[REDACTED]  
Robert W. Gambino  
Director of Security

*21 Aug 78*

Date